Tennessee Law Spring 2017

University of Tennessee College of Law

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Unlike litigation, where you’re trying to beat the other side, transactional law is involved more with ‘How can we both get the most of what we want?’

— PROFESSOR BRIAN KRUMM
Director, UT Law Business Clinic
Career success is a team sport.
And, we’ve got your back.

Once you’re a member of the UT Law family, we will never stop assisting in your success.

It doesn’t matter whether you are a current student challenged by law school, or an alumnus or alumna who graduated years ago. Whether you are a recent graduate just entering the profession, or an employer seeking qualified legal help to staff your office—we are here to help with an individualized plan that fits your specific needs.

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Features

10 THE CLOSER
Former minor league pitcher Bobby Bramhall may have left the world of professional baseball behind, but he remains a closer, having taken the top spot in Baylor Law’s elite “The Closer” competition.

12 ‘A MIDDLE-AMERICA KIND OF GUY’
Matthew McClanahan’s hands-on experiences with the Homer A. Jones, Jr. Wills Clinic gives him opportunities to make a real impact in the lives of real people.

14 INSIDE THE BUSINESS CLINIC
Professor Brian Krumm has directed the College of Law Business Clinic for more than five years. He tells us about the role it plays in serving business and students.

17 MAKING A DIFFERENCE
From an ICE detention facility in Louisiana to the water crisis in Michigan, College of Law students spent their spring break serving others.

22 TOM WINSTON’S NEW CALLING
At an age when most people are settling into the comforts of retirement, Tom Winston took a road less traveled. At 73, he’s embarking on a brand new career in law.

24 THE CAREER ALL-STAR TEAM
UT Law’s Bettye B. Lewis Career Center not only serves the needs of current students, but also alumni and employers seeking assistance in their search for quality legal professionals.

Departments

3 From the Dean
Dean Melanie D. Wilson

5 Opening Statements
Professor George W. Kuney

6 Student Spotlight
Students argue before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and another makes her mark with the Nashville Predators

9 Syllabus
A look at Professor Joan Heminway’s innovative business law simulation

27 Faculty Spotlight
Highlighting the work of professors Lucy Jewel, Michael J. Higdon, Paula Schaefer, and Maurice Stucke

29 Faculty Forum

32 Report on Giving

40 Closing Statements
We all need a lifeline.

Not everyone has one.

“We educated, privileged lawyers have a professional and moral duty to represent the underrepresented in our society, to ensure that justice exists for all, both legal and economic justice.”

Associate U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Get involved at law.utk.edu/pro-bono
These days, many law schools actively market themselves as places where law students will become “practice ready” by graduation. Schools know that graduating students with significant practical skill sets is imperative in the current employment market, which is reluctant to pay to train lawyers. Ten years ago, it was common for law firms to hire a new law graduate, expecting to spend two or three years guiding and grooming the graduate. Senior lawyers would bring a junior lawyer along to watch a deposition, observe a negotiation or closing. If the young associate showed particular promise, she might be asked to play a small participatory part in a real estate deal or trial. Large firms often boasted about extensive, formal training programs for new associates.

Those days are gone. Legal employers now spend considerably less time on training.

The great news is that at UT Law, we have been ahead of the “experiential” training curve for decades. We began providing opportunities for our students to learn the essentials of law practice long before it became trendy and years before it became a common marketing strategy. Maybe that’s why we do it so well.

I’m particularly proud that for many years we’ve been training lawyers for transactional work and business litigation, as well as trial and appellate advocacy. A number of schools have developed solid, general experiential advocacy components to their curricula. Few provide meaningful opportunities to learn how to negotiate a deal, draft a contract, attack or defend a business transaction, or advise a client on intellectual property and incorporation issues. At UT Law, our students enjoy a chance for all of these experiences under the guiding hand of tenured and tenure-track professors who possess extensive practice experience themselves.

This issue of Tennessee Law highlights some of our business and transactional law strengths, including our business law faculty, our transactional clinical offerings, our curricular opportunities for business-minded students, our concentration in business transactions, our Clayton Center for Entrepreneurial Law, and Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law, just to name a few.

Whether you are litigation-, entrepreneurial-, or business-minded, I bet you’ll be impressed with the extensive training our students receive before they graduate, especially the transactional law and skills training we offer. Let me know what you think about all of the great things going on in the College of Law. And, as always, go Vols!

MELANIE D. WILSON, DEAN
UT LAW’S 2018 U.S. NEWS RANKINGS

OVERALL
31ST
Public law schools
57TH
All law schools

LEGAL CLINICAL PROGRAMS
10TH
Public law schools
27TH
All law schools

At a Glance

CLASS OF 2020
FALL 2017 ENTERING CLASS

122 ENROLLED STUDENTS

3.52 MEDIAN UNDERGRAD GPA

158 MEDIAN LSAT

67 UNDERGRADUATE INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED

17 U.S. JURISDICTIONS REPRESENTED

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TENNESSEE LAW MAGAZINE
OPENING STATEMENT

It is estimated that upward of 75 percent of all lawyering in the United States is in the fields of transactional practice or regulatory compliance. This statistic is a surprise to most students when they arrive at the College of Law. They have been raised on television programs and movies that portray lawyers in litigation or courtroom practices.

In an effort to open the eyes of law students early in their legal education, the College of Law now offers a 1L Transactional Lawyering Lab course that exposes all students to transactional law practice. The course reviews transactions handled by 3L students in the Business Law Clinic for a UT College of Nursing technology start-up and engages students in the review and negotiation of a lease and restrictive real estate covenants. Taught by myself and my colleague Professor Becky Jacobs, this course has been a revelation for many of our students, and more than ever, I am asked for advice on shaping and preparing for a business lawyering career.

The College of Law has long been a leader in the practical training of business lawyers, both transactional lawyers and commercial litigators, primarily through its concentration in business transactions and advanced course offerings in business law. Graduates taking all or part of the Clayton Center course offerings use their grounding in doctrine, theory, policy, and skills in private law firms, for-profit and nonprofit businesses, and government.

Both the concentration and the Center for Entrepreneurial Law were the brainchild of Professor (now-Emeritus) Robert Lloyd and were backed by then-Dean Richard Wirtz in 1995. The core of the program is a series of courses that teach business associations, contract drafting, real estate finance, secured transactions, income and business taxation, and a capstone course that focuses on either enterprise, tax or estate planning. These courses combine both doctrinal substance and skills with experiential learning to produce graduates who are fully prepared to represent clients on business transactions.

I am particularly enthused about our core series of courses that address contract drafting, transactional lawyering, corporate finance, commercial leasing, mergers and acquisitions, software licensing, construction law and representing enterprises. Students in these classes learn the way lawyers have learned for centuries: by doing it, having the work reviewed by more experienced practitioners, and then redoing it until they get it right. Frankly, it is refreshing to engage with the students as they endeavor to understand and apply business and business law concepts, give their work an initial review, then return it to them for rework and improvement. It may not sound sexy, but the results are telling. As one hiring partner once told me, “we love hiring UT students – they get here and already know how to do things.”

Our advanced courses and clinical offerings often use innovative teaching methods that include transaction simulations and expose students to direct client service. Externships and field placements with UT Athletics, Oakridge National Laboratory, and the Y-12 National Security Complex present additional opportunities for hands-on learning. UT Law’s academic curriculum offers the kind of business law education that was sorely lacking when I emerged from my law school in 1989. Here at UT Law we administer, teach and support courses and other activities that instruct and inform students on all the things that I wish I had taken with me into my first full-time law job.

Our work in business transactions training at the College of Law is constantly evolving and improving. The students are engaged and emerge each spring with better knowledge and skills than the class before them did. I hope to be able to say that every year in the future. After all, the students—future providers of legal services that meet client and community needs—are what this institution is all about.
From classroom to courtroom: Students argue before Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

BY LAURA LACY

Take any syllabus from a higher education course, and you’ll likely find a predictable pattern—periods of reading and absorbing new information followed by a test of that information. The College of Law’s Appellate Clinic, however, is a little different. Yes, there’s reading, but that reading involves the cases of real clients attempting to wind their way through the appellate system. And the “test”? It just might be in front of a judge.

“We represent clients in federal appeals, state court appeals and administrative appeals,” said associate professor Lucy Jewel, who took over the year-long Appellate Clinic class two years ago. “The primary goal is to give the students a realistic experience of representing a client for the entire appellate process. Beginning with interviewing them, getting to know them—whether that takes place in the jail or in their home if it’s an administrative healthcare-related appeal—and then going out and complying with all of the procedural requirements to get the appeal filed and drafted. The research is a huge component. There’s a massive amount of factual information and law that has to be culled. The end product is an argument made at the court or made to the agency where we advocate for the client.”

During the 2017 clinic, Alex Thomason (’17) and Garrett Ward (’17) reached a milestone that many attorneys don’t realize during their entire careers. The pair, guided by Jewel and adjunct professor Wade Davies, took on the case of Douglas Weissert, who was sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of planning a robbery that resulted in the murder of the victim. They argued in front of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of their client, seeking post-conviction relief for violations of Weissert’s Sixth Amendment confrontation right and the Fifth Amendment right to counsel. With thousands of documents to synthesize and arguments to brainstorm, the students worked hard to bring the best possible framework to the courtroom and apply their years of education to help a person in need of representation, Jewel said.

“They actually get to be a lawyer,” Jewel said. “They get to apply all the skills they’ve been learning...All of these things come together. A real client’s liberty is on the line. It gives the students a kind of passion that they don’t necessarily get in their traditional classrooms.”

The Sixth Circuit Judges were impressed by Thomason and Ward’s efforts:

“I want to compliment both of you. You have done a fine job of representing your client. Very, very nicely done.”
Judge Alice M. Batchelder

“You did an excellent job. You’ve heard the advocacy here. You know you’re right up there, beyond, I think.”
Senior Judge Richard F. Suhrheinrich

Listen to Thomason and Ward’s turn in the courtroom at http://bit.ly/2vCJDOQ
A University of Tennessee College of Law student had no way of knowing what was in store for the Nashville Predators hockey team when she applied for an internship with the organization’s legal department.

Katie Yoches, a self-described networker and third-year law student at UT, has combined her love for sports and the law. She spent the spring semester living in Boston, Mass. while completing an externship with Spartan Race—an organization that encourages fitness through running, and hosts obstacle course race events. There she helped monitor the organization’s trademark rights—tracking down those who attempted to sell unlicensed merchandise that bore her company’s logo.

While still in Boston, she began reaching out to a number of other sports-related organizations seeking summer internship opportunities that would help her enhance her resume.

“I contacted lots of teams, agents, Nike, UnderArmour,” she said, “but Tennessee has always been home.”

Yoches’ persistence, her experience with Spartan Race, and her second-year law school training with trademark and contract law gave her the advantage she needed to land a full-time legal internship the Nashville Predators.

Competition is stiff, says Predators Counsel Jill Ormandy, and it’s a rare opportunity for the law student who lands the job.

“The professional sports industry is extremely difficult to break into given its extreme popularity and the number of applicants, especially considering that each team typically has very few opportunities and positions,” Ormandy said.

Yoches started work in Nashville in late May, but there wasn’t much time for on-the-job training as the Predators had just eliminated the top-seeded Chicago Blackhawks to become the NHL Western Conference champions.

“It was pretty hectic at first,” Yoches said. “Everybody was running every which way. I was given projects but not detailed instruction or direction because everyone was getting ready for the games and customers and those who attended the games.

“It was a headfirst dive in.”

But Ormandy said Yoches was well-prepared for the challenge. Her “prior work experience allowed her to understand our structure immediately, which is a great attribute,” Ormandy said.

Yoches filled those first days on the job in Bridgestone Arena reading through legal files and agreements from prior years to better learn how the organization operated. As the Predators’ success on the ice continued, office momentum increased.

“We started planning watch parties downtown and wanted to get more and more people to enjoy them and be involved,” she said. “We worked at making things bigger and better.”

Even after the Predators’ Stanley Cup series loss to the Pittsburgh Penguins, Yoches’ commitment to the team did not waiver; she said, in part because those in the organization’s top positions extended gratitude for her efforts.

“Our General Manager (Jim Rutherford), Coach (Peter Laviolette) and COO (Travis Williams) were all very kind and thanked us for being there and wanting to help. The (Nashville) Mayor (Megan Barry) even thanked us,” she said. “I think lots of times people imagine team coaches and owners to be too busy for the front office, but that wasn’t the case here.”

In the last few weeks, Yoches’ work has evolved into monitoring trademark infringement and helping enforce licensing agreements. And when Yoches’ unforgettable summer affiliation with the professional sports team comes to an end, the girl who entered college on a track scholarship says she’ll return to Knoxville with the same drive and determination that made her a successful athlete.

UT Law Professor Doug Blaze says he looks forward to seeing what comes next for Yoches.

“She is so incredibly bright,” said Blaze, who supervised her field placements. “I have never seen anybody like her. She is so well organized about how to move toward her dream job.”

“It’s so fun to watch Katie succeed,” Blaze said. “She will have a series of jobs and manage that path through the legal sports world to have major impact virtually everywhere she ends up.”

Yoches said she will spend the 2017-18 school year studying for the bar exam as she seeks out her first job with a law firm. Eventually, she’d like to work as general counsel for a professional athletic organization.

“Graduates aren’t hired into general counsel positions right out of law school,” she said. “And I’m not sure how far this experience will take me, but I know I want to be in the sports industry.”

“We’ll see how it goes.”
Because a high proportion of legal work occurs in the representation of businesses, the concentration in business transactions allows second- and third-year students to concentrate their studies on the legal aspects of business and finance, emphasizing the needs of business concerns both large and small.

**OUR BUSINESS LAW FACULTY**

Eric Amarante  Teri Baxter  Zack Buck  Iris Goodwin  Joan Heminway  Becky Jacobs  Brian Krumm  George Kuney

Michelle Kwon  Don Leatherman  Tom Plank  Gary Pulsinelli  Jonathan Rohr  Paula Schaefer  Greg Stein  Maurice Stucke

**OUR COURSES**

**First-Year Courses**
- Contracts I
- Contracts II
- Property
- Transactional Law Lab

**Additional Course Offerings**
- Advanced Bus. Associations
- Animals & the Law
- Antitrust
- Bankruptcy
- Bioethics & Public Health
- Business Law Clinic
- Business Reorg. & Workouts
- Business Torts
- Conflicts of Law
- Consumer Bankruptcy
- Copyright Law
- Corporate Finance
- Gratuitous Transfers
- Health Care Finance & Orgs.
- Health Law Reg. & Quality
- Intellectual Property
- International Intellectual Property
- Land Use
- Law, Science, & Technology
- Patent Law
- Payment Systems
- Securities Regulations
- State and Local Taxation
- Taxation of Real Property
- Tax Practice & Procedures
- Tax Theory
- Trademark Law
- Wealth Transfer Taxation
- Wills & Trusts

**Concentration Courses**
- Introduction to Business Transactions
- Business Associations
- Fundamental Concepts of Income Taxation
- Income Tax of Business Organizations
- Contract Drafting
- Land Finance Law
- Secured Transactions

**Capstone Course Options**
- Estate Planning
- Representing Enterprises
- Transactional Tax Planning
Professor Joan Heminway recalls her early days of practicing law and feeling blindsided by questions she hadn’t anticipated from the senior attorney she was working with.

“I didn’t know enough about the overall advisory context in which the law was being raised,” she says, explaining that she didn’t want her students to lack that knowledge.

Years later, her observation as a professor has been that law students spend their time studying cases that illustrate what has gone wrong, but spend little time translating case law into transactional legal advice.

Likewise, some students demonstrated more skill in delivering oral answers in class than they were showing on written examinations. That piqued her interest and led her to think about using some form of oral examination.

It would be several years for the seed of that idea to become a reality, but the result is a small-group oral mid-term examination that puts Business Associations students into a simulated legal advisory context related to a proposed business transaction.

“The students were paralyzed in fear,” she recalls that first semester it appeared on the syllabus. “Nobody knew what it was. Everybody wondered whether they should be in my class or not...There was no scuttlebutt about how this worked, and whether this was good or not.”

The simulation puts the students in the role of junior attorneys helping a senior attorney, played by Heminway, prepare for an advisory meeting with a client. They work in groups of two to three students and are given the facts of the case a week in advance. During the 45-minute “meeting,” each student is given the primary responsibility of answering a question, with the other students available to advise and offer additional information.

“I see my students turn into lawyers right before my eyes,” says Heminway. “Students I’ve never seen in that role adopt it fully and work productively with each other. That has been a strong motivation to continue the simulations over time.”

Despite their initial fears, many of her students find a great deal of value in the simulation, citing it as one of the most valuable learning experiences they’ve had in law school.
Former minor league pitcher and recent law alumnus Bobby Bramhall may have left the world of professional baseball behind years ago, but he remains a closer.
O
r, rather, he’s The Closer after taking the top prize at Baylor Law School’s first-ever transactional law competition in January.

Mere days before the competition, Brian Krumm, University of Tennessee associate professor of law (and competition coach), found himself down one competitor for The Closer competition in Waco, Texas when a student had to pull out. He decided to call in Bramhall, thinking the Texas native would jump at the chance to compete in his home state. And even though Bramhall had just driven from Texas back to Tennessee after the winter break, he hopped the plane returning to the Lone Star State.

“I got home on Monday after, you know, a 17-hour drive,” Bramhall recalled, with a laugh. “And Tuesday morning, Professor Krumm called me and asked if I wanted to go to Texas. I said, ‘You’ve gotta be kidding me, I just was 89 miles from Waco!’” But recognizing a great opportunity, he readily agreed.

Once there, Bramhall—a lone student with seven other contestants chosen from law schools that, like the University of Tennessee College of Law, were invited to participate based on past excellence in Transactional LawMeets events—dove headfirst into a hypothetical negotiation in order to showcase his deal-making chops.

Baylor set up a mock scenario in which Balcones Distilling, an actual award-winning whiskey distillery in Waco, was exploring a partnership with Premier Service Corporation, a fictitious company interested in taking over the management of the distillery’s gift shop and hospitality needs. Half of the competitors were assigned to each side.

Negotiating on behalf of Balcones, Bramhall was stepping in to replace the distillery’s fictional lawyer, unable to work on the agreement anymore due to unforeseen circumstances. The history of the partnership deal was dropped in Bramhall’s lap, and within the span of 24 hours, he would digest the information, tour the facility and work with Krumm to strategize for his client. The next morning, he negotiated four times, with each of the competitors representing Premier Service Corporation.

“By the last round, you’ve said your point so many times that you know what sticks and what you can get past,” Bramhall said. “But there was always something different based on what the hospitality company’s lawyers wanted or the way they approached you.”

The way Bramhall navigated through the first four negotiations caught the attention not only of the judges, but of the other law students at the event. At dinner after the first round of competition, when the finalists were announced, Bramhall’s name was among them. He also received The Closer’s professionalism award, voted on by his fellow competitors, and “quite an accolade,” according to Krumm.

In a twist for the final round, the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission presented a hypothetical stumbling block to Balcones and Premier, and Bramhall had to prepare to address these new details. In order to succeed, Krumm said Bramhall needed “the ability to not only understand the law and understand how to develop a win-win situation, but to also react and modify [his] position based on new information.”

Bramhall negotiated twice more for the distillery’s interests. Afterward, he was named The Closer, as was one of the competitors who negotiated on behalf of the hospitality firm.

His main goal when approaching the agreement was preserving the integrity of the distillery’s brand. “Balcones had built this brand—which is a true story about the distillery but also part of the fictional problem set that they gave us. I didn’t want that brand to be diluted in any way. The owners had told us, ‘We are just to the point where we’re so busy, we need someone to take it, and we want to pay them to do that. We just don’t want to lose what we’ve built.’” With that in mind, Bramhall was able to facilitate agreements that pleased all parties.

“He’s just got a natural way of looking for win-win situations,” Krumm said. “Unlike litigation, where you’re trying to beat the other side, transactional law is involved more with ‘How can we both get the most of what we want?’ And it takes a very special personality to do that.”

The leap from a career in baseball to one in law might seem like a large one; yet Bramhall’s experience as an athlete has informed his current professional path. Years in the minor leagues showed him the challenges that players vying for a spot on an MLB team face, from cutthroat mindsets to the temptation to do whatever it takes (like steroids, for example) to make it. In some ways, that experience has given him greater insight into how to approach transactional law. “We have to compete as lawyers, and we have to be hardcore. But we also have to ask ourselves, What’s ethical? What’s right by our client? What’s right by the people we’re doing business with?” Bramhall said. “I’ve seen firsthand that if it’s lopsided, there’s always going to be an extremely dissatisfied party.”
MORE THAN JUST

‘A MIDDLE-AMERICA KIND OF GUY’

Matthew McClanahan’s hands-on experiences with the Homer A. Jones Jr. Wills Clinic reaffirms why this small-town farm boy first set his sights on law school long ago.

by Mike Blackerby

“It’s the best thing I’ve done in law school,” says the 29-year-old McClanahan, who just completed his second year at UT Law. “It’s one thing to sit in a classroom, but taking part in the Wills Clinic is where the rubber meets the road.”

McClanahan’s work with the clinic has provided a number of opportunities to better relate to the clients he serves. A particularly poignant situation allowed him to help a mother gain conservatorship over her disabled son when he turned 18.

“You have never been hugged by anybody until you have been hugged by a mother of a child with cerebral palsy who is in a wheelchair who was just named his conservator,” McClanahan said.

The clinic provides free estate planning services for those at 300 percent above the poverty line, McClanahan said. Student attorneys perform myriad services for clients. They conduct interviews, review legal options and process documents, even handle probate matters for economically disadvantaged clients who may not otherwise be able to afford these important services.

“It’s kind of an under-served group of people,” he said. “They have assets and need to have a [legal] plan, but they may not necessarily have the liquid capital to go out and pay an attorney.”

The clinic is offered as a three-credit, one-semester course, during both the fall and spring semesters for third-year students, as well as second semester 2Ls.

MCCLANAHAN grew up on his family’s 65-acre farm in Crossville, located in rural Cumberland County and he’s quick to tout the virtues of family, small-town America, and ordinary folks.

“My grandfather founded the farm I live on in 1947,” he said.

McClanahan speaks in a comforting homespun manner tinged with a slight country twang, his country roots coming across loud and clear in conversation.

“I just want to do whatever I can to help my clients. Whether they need case work, or a title search, or a will, they can call Matt.”

“We raise registered polled Hereford beef cattle. I’ve always had a love for agriculture and small-town life.”

McClanahan graduated from Tennessee Tech with an undergraduate degree in agriculture in 2011. It was there that his appetite for law was whetted by his participation on a mock-trial team that went on to win the state championship. But McClanahan’s life and career path to law school took an unfortunate detour on May 1, 2010 with the death of his beloved grandfather, Claude Little.

“When he passed away, my brother, mother, father and myself had to step up and take charge of the farm and see that his legacy lived on,” McClanahan said. “I prayed about it, and I thought it was not the right time for me to leave the farm and my family.”

So instead, he worked for several years and continued to help his family with the farm. But he never stopped thinking about fulfilling his dream of becoming a lawyer.

“You do what you need to do to help support your family,” he said.

That dream began to materialize in August 2015, after he was admitted to UT Law.

“UT offered me a great scholarship, so it all worked out for the best. I’ve been very pleased with how it has all happened. Going to law school is something I’ve always been passionate about and always wanted to do.

“I could not have done it without God’s help, and Him giving me the most loving and supporting family, friends, and teachers anyone could ask for,” McClanahan said.

“I’ve just always wanted to be a good country lawyer.”

THE HOMER A. JONES, JR. WILLS CLINIC draws client referrals from the
Knoxville Habitat for Humanity, Legal Aid of East Tennessee, local hospice organizations, the Knoxville-Knox County Grandparents as Parents Program, and East Tennessee Children’s Hospital.

Professor Barbara Johnson, who has been with the Wills Clinic since its inception in 2009, says the aim is to help the working poor.

“It’s for people who don’t have discretionary money to spend on things like a will,” says Johnson, who also has a background in social work.

Clinic participation is limited to six students per semester and those students may serve as many as 12 clients a semester.

Johnson said the work done at the clinic can be an eye-opening experience for students coming from a classroom setting.

“Students start with a lot of book learning, but for the most part they haven’t worked with real clients,” Johnson said. “It’s exciting to them, but most start class saying ‘are we really going to be able to do this?’”

McClanahan’s workload included three hospice cases, one involving a terminally ill man from rural East Tennessee.

“He had worked his whole life on the railroad, and had never gotten around to doing his will. His daughter was the one that contacted us,” McClanahan said.

McClanahan interviewed the hospice patient at his bedside.

“He had gotten to the point where it was very difficult for him to talk. I was sitting at his bedside and chit-chatting when he said in a hoarse voice: ‘I want you to draft my will to care of my family.’”

McClanahan prepared the requisite estate documents and went back to conclude the legal proceedings with his client.

“We—myself, my professor, and the legal secretary at the clinic—went to his house and found a witness. He looked over everything and signed it, allowing him to have his final wishes carried out.”

Johnson says the experiences at the clinic give students an up-close-and-personal jolt of reality they might not get otherwise.

“It shows them that there’s another whole piece of the world,” she said.

“They’re young and they often haven’t had these types of experiences. It’s a lot of work. I can’t tell you how proud I am of Matt and all of the students. They all really stepped up.”

McClanahan says he’ll carry those legal and life lessons with him, and expects they’ll serve him well when he eventually sets out on his law career—which he hopes will lead him back to his hometown of Crossville.

“That’s kind of why I chose the Wills Clinic. I’m just a middle-America kind of guy who wants to have a general practice. In Crossville, a lawyer kind of becomes an extension of your family. I just want to do whatever I can to help my clients. Whether they need case work, or a title search or a will, they can call Matt.”

Student attorneys balance case loads with their legal coursework. McClanahan has worked bedside with some of his hospice clients.
Tell us about the role the business clinic serves.
We are a transactional clinic serving students and professors who are trying to commercialize intellectual property that they’ve developed on campus and people in the community who are starting a small business and need assistance with entity formation, employment contracts, intellectual property agreements, and things of that nature. We represent clients in the full range of transactional issues that small businesses encounter during the course of their existence.

What types of clients do you work with?
Most, but not all, of our clients are businesses that have not yet generated income. We don’t compete with local lawyers who represent clients with assets. Our objective is to provide law students with substantive experiences in transactional law.

How many student attorneys work in the business clinic?
Eight to twelve third-year students each semester.

How many faculty?
I am the only faculty member supervising students in the business clinic, but the College of Law has other transactional clinics. For example, our newest faculty member, Eric Franklin-Amarante, who started this summer, will teach a Community Development Clinic. In a separate transactional area, Professor Amy Hess founded, and she and Barbara Johnson supervise our wills clinic.

What is your role as the director?
First, I have to find substantive work for my students. I work with a number of departments at UT, especially the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce’s Entrepreneur Center, and similar organizations in the region. I routinely attend a variety of “Shark Tank” events and discuss opportunities for the participants to work with our Clinic. The most important aspect of the position however is helping students transform from law students to lawyers. I work closely with students to help them learn how to interact with clients and to develop their capacity to assess risks and solve problems for their clients. During our classroom sessions, we discuss issues that they are encountering during client representation. Typically these discussions involve how to choose the appropriate business entity, how to protect intellectual property, and how to draft various agreements that are necessary to conduct business with others.

What is your favorite part about working with the clinic and the students?
It is personally rewarding to see how much students grow during the semester. Here’s an example. We were working with Solex Corp., a group of researchers at the UT Medical Center who had just invented a radio tracer that binds with amyloid proteins, which provides for better imaging. Amyloid proteins are associated with Alzheimer’s disease, certain cancers and certain inflammatory diseases. Initially, during the process of forming a business entity and licensing the technology for the researchers, the students were a little intimidated working with such highly trained specialists. In an informal gathering after they had completed the work, the students fessed up that they did not fully understand all of the technology, the doctors fessed up that they did not understand all the legal issues that they were encountering. Having students recognize the value that they are adding to society through their work is remarkable to see.

It sounds like your clients are from all over the place, from sole proprietors to small operations.
Yes. With trademarks, we’ve even had international clients. We did a trademark with an Argentinian software company. But mostly, we look to take on clients that really can’t afford an attorney. Many times, there’s a reason a company or an individual might
Professor Brian Krumm oversees what is essentially a legal firm of student attorneys representing dozens of clients per year.
not have made that first step. In many instances, if the business clinic did not provide some of the initial legal work, a fledgling business might not be able to afford the several thousand dollars that it takes to legally form and operate a business.

Do you ever represent clients in litigation?
Occasionally, we will take on a litigation matter. It gives students insight into how poorly drafted contracts can result in costly litigation. In conjunction with the advocacy clinic, we represented a small church that had leased its place of worship with an option to buy. After 15 years of diligently making payments every month, the pastor contacted the owner to obtain the warranty deed. The owner realized that under the terms of the parties’ option contract, the church had been paying simple, as opposed to, compound interest over those 15 years, and wanted an additional $35,000 to consummate the agreement. He refused to turn over ownership of the building because the church had not provided written notice of their intent to purchase at the end of the term, even though otherwise they had fully performed. So, we actually did file a Chancery court action, and rather than go to court, the parties agreed to mediation. And in mediation the matter was settled by the owner agreeing that the amount in controversy would be donated to the church in exchange for a tax deduction. This is also an example, of how the students were able to come up with a creative solution to solve their client’s legal issue.

Take us through the process from initial contact with the client through completion of the case.
Let’s say somebody contacts me and says “I’m a new small business and I need to form a corporation or register a trademark.” They complete an intake form which includes contact information and outlines their business plan and what they want the clinic to do. We’ll interview the client. If it looks like we can do work for them, we have them sign an engagement agreement which defines what we’re going to do and what their responsibilities are as a client. After further interviews, the students draft a memo outlining what we’re going to do and how much time it will take to get it done. And then we start working on the case. If the case takes longer than just a semester, the students will write a transfer memo explaining what has been done and what needs to be done the following semester so that the next student can pick up the file and continue the work.

How does this experience prepare students for what they’ll do after they graduate?
Students in the clinic, unlike interns working in law firms or industry, are primarily responsible for their clients. I serve both a safety net and quality control function. It’s interesting because some of the law firms that have hired students after their business clinic experience say they come in a year or a year and a half ahead of other students. Our graduates have a comfort level with interviewing clients; they have an understanding of what you need to do to form a corporation. They’re not afraid to jump in and draft an agreement that they’ve not previously encountered because they’ve already experienced that fear of failure.

What other successes have you had for clients?
Our work with iCare, about four years ago, was probably the biggest “win” we’ve had. Within 18 months we took a company from entity formation all the way through asset sale for $1.75 million. iCare was a small software company, a collaboration between the UT College of Nursing and the UT College of Engineering. They created a health record management system for use on campus and later realized that other campuses could also use the software. After licensing the intellectual property from the university, and doing initial beta testing, a larger company bought the software to expand to other universities.

What else do you want people to know about the business clinic?
We are blessed with the law professors that teach in our transactional law concentration at UT. They are not only exceptional scholars, but each brings to the classroom years of practice experience. I want prospective employers and law students to recognize the outstanding quality of transactional legal education that the students receive when they attend the UT College of Law.
From an ICE detention facility in Louisiana to the water crisis in Michigan, College of Law students spent their spring break serving others.

by Laura Lacy
IN RURAL LOUISIANA SITS A DULL GRAY BUILDING SURROUNDED BY A FENCE TOPPED WITH BARBED WIRE.

Technically it’s not a prison, but it might as well be. It was also a spring break destination for David Samples and Jared Allen, students at the University of Tennessee College of Law.

The LaSalle Detention Facility in Jena, La. operates under U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and is a regional center where immigrants facing deportation are housed. Samples (‘17) and Allen (‘19) drove for more than 10 hours to reach the Bayou State in order to speak to Daniel*—one of the facility’s detainees and an undocumented immigrant of the Knoxville community—as well as explore the inner workings of immigration law.

“We were contacted by a local faith group,” said Samples, who also served as the student coordinator for Alternative Spring Break 2017, “and one of their congregates was picked up by the cops and then put into ICE custody and sent down to the middle of nowhere.”

The pair went to LaSalle during visiting hours, and made their way to the partition through which they would talk with Daniel. As law students, they weren’t there as legal representation, but they were there to help and to direct him to other legal resources he might use.

During the course of their conversation—conducted in both English and Spanish, with Allen serving as a translator as best he could—it became clear that, while Daniel’s driving without a license and lack of documentation landed him in LaSalle, there was no discernible reason for why he was stopped in the first place.

“The officer didn’t say anything like ‘Hey, he’s got a tail light out,’ or ‘He was swerving all over the road.’ But he was visibly Latino,” Samples said.

“What we could extrapolate from his facts was that there was no particular reason,” Allen said, explaining that a lawyer could argue that the officer lacked probable cause or reasonable suspicion for the stop.

Daniel’s car had also been impounded, leaving his family—still in Knoxville—in a lurch without it. And without Daniel present to sign for its release, the car sat there, racking up daily impoundment fees. Samples and Allen brought the appropriate form for him to sign so that his family might retrieve their only car.

In addition to meeting with Daniel, Samples and Allen observed several immigration court proceedings. They also worked with Catholic Charities in Baton Rouge, helping shore up resources for immigrants who have to appear before a judge without representation—a common challenge as immigration violations result in civil charges rather than criminal, meaning representation is not guaranteed.

“A lot of undocumented immigrants have to go ‘pro se’ before the judge, which means they’ll have to go without an attorney present,” Samples said. “Working out of Catholic Charities, we put together essentially packets of information that the pro se litigants can then take before the judge and say, ‘Judge, I am endangered if I go back to my home country, and here are statistics about how dangerous it is to live in my country, especially for someone like me.’”

Other students back home in Tennessee researched Daniel’s situation as well as other resources for Knoxville’s undocumented community. Students also answered questions from members of the community about the rights of undocumented immigrants.

“We looked at what a person’s rights are when the police or ICE or bounty hunters or vigilantes show up at his or her door—including examples of what a Knox County police badge looks like, what a valid search warrant versus an ICE detainer looks like and what identification bounty hunters are required to have on

* Name has been changed to preserve privacy.
their person in Tennessee,” said Jenna Macnair (’19). “Knowing that my work was going to help bring some sense of support and clarity to my neighbors who are directly affected by these issues was really motivating.”

Samples and Allen answered Daniel’s questions to the best of their ability, though when he asked when he would be able to get out of the detention facility, they regretted to tell him they didn’t know. They shared the well-wishes from members of his congregation and provided a letter for him from those back home.

Then, ultimately, it was time for Samples and Allen to leave.

“I remember at the end there was a little slat under the plexiglass,” Allen said. “He poked his fingers underneath as a little gesture, and we put our fingers on his, and that was our first and only contact with him. It was very moving. It was a hug and handshake all in one.”

WHAT A DIFFERENCE SPRING BREAK CAN MAKE

Samples and Allen are among the 32 students from the College of Law who chose to forego a trip to the beach or a getaway with friends for spring break 2017 and instead embodied the Volunteer spirit by giving their time to others. All told, these students donated more than 900 hours, some conducting remote research and others representing the University of Tennessee at one of six sites located in four states.

For example, Tennessee students also traveled north during Alternative Spring Break, to Flint, Mich. Residents of Flint, a city just over an hour from Detroit, suffered greatly when officials switched the city’s water source in April, 2014. The water flowing into homes from the Flint River exposed citizens to harmful levels of lead, not to mention other dangers such as bacteria and disinfectants.

When Alaina Woodall (’18) told people she was going to Flint for Alternative Spring Break, she found many of them were under the impression the crisis had passed. The opposite is true. While the Flint water crisis might not dominate news cycles anymore, the community is still reeling, Woodall said.

“The fact that they are still dealing with severe illness, pipe corrosion, damage to their houses through water heaters corroding, etc., is appalling. What makes it worse is that no one wants to take responsibility for the problem,” Woodall said. “The entities in charge of making the decisions and monitoring the changes are fighting the people about restitution. Meanwhile, people in Flint do not have safe drinking water.”

As a result of these continuing struggles, several class actions and lawsuits have been filed in both state and federal courts in Michigan, according to Flint native and Professor Val Vojdik, who helped Samples conceptualize this Alternative Spring Break trip.

“The actions run the gamut. Some of them are based on environmental law, claiming that the city and the state violated the Safe Drinking Water Act, for example. Others assert claims that the city and state officials knew that the water was poisoned and hid that from the public,” Vojdik said. “And as a result, they’re asserting a number of claims, including race discrimination in violation of the Constitution. Flint has a large African American population. It is 40 percent below the poverty level. So the plaintiffs were claiming that this would not have happened in the wealthy suburbs of Detroit. It wouldn’t have happened at Grosse Pointe, which is predominantly white and very wealthy. They also raised a number of other claims that the city and state violated their substantive due process rights. Their right to bodily integrity, and other various claims. There’s a lot of lawyers involved and a lot of plaintiffs.”

Woodall and the rest of the team of students who went to Flint worked with civil rights groups and for both a private
attorney, and several class action lawyers. As part of their work, the students reached out to Flint residents to gather information about their experiences.

“Talking to the people and hearing what they are going through and still struggling with in their daily lives made me realize two things,” Woodall said. “One, it is easy to take for granted that you will have fresh drinking water in the United States, and two, what happened in Flint could happen anywhere and probably is happening in other countries around the world.”

Vojdik saw the impact the trip had on the students. “Going to Flint and working with lawyers and their clients on the ground really demonstrated to them how much of an impact lawyers can have. The law can be such a powerful tool to try and redress situations, where people who individually can’t afford lawyers really need help.”

**A LONGSTANDING VOLUNTEER TRADITION**

The immigration and Flint projects were new for this year’s Alternative Spring Break, but the College of Law has a rich history of facilitating pro bono trips for students. One of the longest running partnerships is with Legal Aid of East Tennessee, a non-profit that pairs qualifying individuals with legal services they might not otherwise be able to afford. “We help a lot of deserving Tennesseans meet their unmet legal needs through that program,” Samples said.

In addition to volunteering with the Knoxville branch of Legal Aid, students also traveled to Chattanooga this year to help set up “We Mean Business,” a new program offering “free transactional legal services to small, local businesses owned by minorities, veterans and women,” according to Legal Aid staff attorney Whitney Standefer, the program’s coordinator. They drafted templates for documents the program would use moving forward and brainstormed about the ways to bring news of the new program to the businesses in the community.

“I was incredibly impressed with our interns. They were professional, punctual, thorough with their work and delightful to be around,” Standefer said. “These were the first interns I have ever had, and I honestly think they spoiled me with an unrealistic standard for what to expect from interns in the future.”

Another Alternative Spring Break trip that has existed for years sends students to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate for the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. Participants in this program can learn about the different jobs a legal career in the military might entail, from legal support to trial defense.

“The breadth of the issues the military faces are as wide as the challenges one faces in civilian practice plus the added wrinkle of dealing with an additional set of rules/regulations (known as the Uniform Code of Military Justice) or legal matters in an international environment,” said Chris Davis (’19), who now serves as an active-duty captain in the U.S. Marine Corps and will transition to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate after law school. The most meaningful part of the week for Davis was the energy and enthusiasm for service that he saw. “By the end, it was contagious.”

Students were also able to see the way the law works in another legal system while volunteering with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Cherokee, N.C. “This was an awesome opportunity to learn about something I had no previous experience with. It highlighted the difference between tribal law and other areas of the law most of us deal with, [and] the importance Native American culture has in influencing the laws and judicial process of the tribal courts,” said Elijah Lovingfoss (’19).

The College of Law visitors gained new
insight on a variety of legal issues facing the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. They outlined a document for a family safety case, helped explore licensing law so the Cherokee could license their own child care facilities, compiled legal resources for members and worked on a redraft of the Eastern Band’s sex offender ordinance, stretching the students’ thinking in the process.

“Because development of the tribal code is an ongoing process, in many cases Cherokee law did not yet provide a clear answer to our questions,” Spenser Powell ('17) said. “This differed greatly from the usual law student experience of having a wealth of information readily available through Westlaw or Lexis. More creativity and ingenuity was required.”

The students’ creativity and ingenuity was a welcome addition, according to Sunshine Parker, associate attorney general for the Eastern Band of Cherokees (UT Law ’14). “The Office of the Attorney General is inundated with requests for ordinance reviews, updates and resolutions for submission,” she said. “Having the students work with us helps spread the workload out and it is always beneficial to have a fresh set of eyes take a look at our work.”

"Alternative Spring Break is one of the many volunteer opportunities available through UT Pro Bono, where students assist attorneys providing free legal advice to individuals who cannot afford to hire a lawyer," says Access to Justice Coordinator Shawn Ross.

“I encourage everyone to get involved,” Ross explains. “When students volunteer, they develop skills that will transfer to any career path they choose. Clients don’t usually walk in with a list of legal issues. Instead, they come in with a story. The student listens to the story, asks questions, and identifies any legal issues. The student then communicates with the attorney and observes the attorney providing legal advice. Through this process, they begin to develop relationships with folks in the legal community. Finally, and most importantly, students have the opportunity to get out of the classroom, engage with the community, and help real people with real legal issues.”

For more information about UT Pro Bono opportunities, visit law.utk.edu/pro-bono or contact Shawn Ross at sross8@utk.edu.

'GUERRILLA ATTORNEYS'

Alternative Spring Break gives College of Law students the opportunity to take the law to the people who need it the most.

“One of the things that, in my view, is the best about being an attorney is that you don’t have to be sitting in an office with a blazing fast internet connection and a bunch of law books around you and a bunch of attorneys in suits,” Samples said. “You can be the sort of guerrilla attorney who goes out into the highways and the hedges and finds people who have legal needs. And then address them.”

Allen, for one, will carry this experience into his life after law school. “Whether you’re working in public interest or private law, you can always find opportunities to work pro bono and to learn about issues that are affecting the community,” he said.

Vojdik agreed. “You can do a great deal of good in a short period of time,” she said. “You don’t have to quit your law practice or take a sabbatical from it to make a difference. A group of dedicated people in a short period of time can really provide important legal assistance.”
Never too late for a new calling

By Rachel Ohm, USA Today Network-Tennessee

Tom Winston has tried retirement three times, but each time has been unsuccessful.

During his most recent break from his job as a consultant and interim hospital CEO, his wife, Sue, said she would come home from her own job to find him sitting in a chair doing nothing. She worried about his health and that he was getting bored.

So when he asked her what she thought about his idea to go to law school at age 70, she embraced the idea, even though it would mean he would be spending most days in Knoxville, about 100 miles away from their Chattanooga home.

“At first we thought, ‘Is he crazy?’” Sue Winston said. “But no, he’s not. He just likes to do something and stay busy and be challenged.”

Three years later, Winston is one of 96 students who will graduate from the University of Tennessee College of Law on Saturday.

His friendly personality and career wisdom have endeared him to both fellow students and faculty at the law school. He plans to practice out of Chattanooga after he takes the bar exam in July.

His story also illustrates the opportunities that are available to Tennessee seniors, who qualify for tuition waivers at the University of Tennessee after age 65, and he said he hopes it inspires others to continue their education, no matter their age.

“For many of us, our interests as we age expand, they don’t contract,” said Winston, 73. “And our imagination changes as we get older. What better resource is there for the workplace than seniors who say like I did, ‘I just don’t have usefulness, let me get trained in whatever turns me on today.’”

Unlike many of his peers, Winston came to the University of Tennessee College of Law after a long and successful career in another field.
And while the law school does enroll other non-traditional students, including young parents and students pursuing a second career, Winston is among the most unique, said Penny White, a former Tennessee Supreme Court justice and the current director of the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution and interim director of Clinical Programs at the college.

“Law school is hard,” White said. “It’s an intellectual challenge and the brain slows down when you get older. So the fact that he’s been able to stay competitive and take on this intellectual challenge at this time, it really is inspiring.”

Originally from Memphis, Winston worked for years at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis and at the University of California Davis Medical Center before moving back to Tennessee to raise his children in the south.

For the last 34 years, he and Sue have lived in Chattanooga, where Winston served as president and CEO of the Erlanger Medical Center; was president and CEO of Life Care Centers, a nursing care business in Cleveland, Tenn.; and served as chief executive officer of the Chattanooga Heart Institute.

He left the heart institute in 2002, then went back to work as a consultant after about six months of retirement. He worked for two years, retired again, grew bored, and went back to work as a consultant and interim CEO of a struggling hospital, only to retire for the third time in 2007.

“I really needed purpose in my life. I’d had it all my life and in retirement I wasn’t satisfying a purpose....”

“I got bored,” Winston said. “I really needed purpose in my life. I’d had it all my life and in retirement I wasn’t satisfying a purpose, so I started thinking what can I do in the last two decades of my life? You know the body is going to break down at some point. I figured doing something with my mind and my experience was really going to be the thing I had to do.”

During exam week at the College of Law library, students are huddled over books and notebooks, but nearly everyone stops to smile and chat when Winston approaches them at their desks.

Spencer Powell, a 27-year-old law school student, described him as a father figure and said he is universally respected in the law school.

“He taught me to say ‘Good morning,’ to everyone,” Powell said. “He said, ‘Spencer, you don’t say ‘Hi’ enough to people and you’ve really got to crack that, so now every time I see him I say, ‘Good morning, Thomas.’”

For his own part, Winston said he has enjoyed law school and made friends with many faculty and students that he hopes to keep in touch with. He’s also had academic success.

He was recently honored with an award for his work in mediation, an area of law that White said can be challenging because it requires a lawyer to manage the emotions of different parties and bring them together to talk about a resolution.

“Being able to step into the shoes of different people with different stakes in the outcome and finding resolution between them is a gift,” White said. “Sure he took a class to learn it, but what I’ve witnessed in Tom is years of life experience and understanding people and how to communicate all coming together. It really is phenomenal.” ✿
While UT Law’s Bettye B. Lewis Career Center is an invaluable career resource for current law students and graduates, employers may not realize the benefits of working with the Career Center.
Some of the Career Center’s functionality may be obvious. It’s a one-stop mentorship, personal development and legal recruiting center that dispenses professional advice and guidance to students and graduates not only during their three years of law school, but throughout their professional careers.

The Career Center’s most recent statistics suggest that graduates are being served well. UT Law graduated 158 students in May 2016, and 90 percent have found meaningful employment, while the national average for job placement post law school graduation is 87 percent.

“These numbers demonstrate the value of the service that we’re providing,” Morgan said.

Kirsten Jacobson is one of the success stories of the 2016 graduating class. During her time as a student, the Career Center staff – including Career Services Advisor Kay Brown and Employer Relations Coordinator Joe Christian – frequently met with Jacobson to help review and edit her application materials and develop a career plan.

With their assistance, Jacobson applied for and began working in 2015 as a volunteer with the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services in Nashville.

“Brad Morgan facilitated my initial meeting with (Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services) through alternative spring break and counseled me on keeping in touch with TALS after that week of volunteering had ended,” Jacobson said.

One year later, Executive Director Ann Pruitt (UT Law ’93) looked to fill a fellowship with the organization. The opportunity arose quickly, and the application process was extensive. While Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services staff supported Jacobson for the fellowship, her application required approval of two additional review teams.

As Jacobson worked quickly to turn around the application materials in the week that preceded the deadline, she leaned on the Career Center to help her through the process.

“Brad helped me secure last-minute letters of recommendation. Kay and Joe did a great job counseling me as I prepared for the interview, and were always available for questions I had,” Jacobson said. “I learned through the process how invaluable it is to have an established relationship with career services.”

Providing assistance to present students and graduates is a clear priority, but the Career Center is equally resourceful for employers looking for qualified employees. The Career Center offers its services to law firms, government entities and businesses like Pruitt’s through employee placement.

Pruitt said she knew immediately that she could turn to Morgan and the UT Law Career Center for help in filling her position, and she didn’t hesitate to trust that expertise.

“We had an opportunity to fund a fellowship and we needed to find the right candidate quickly,” Pruitt said. “So, who do you call when that sort of opportunity arises? You call Brad Morgan.”

“Brad was able to bring us someone who had an excellent skill set who could take a project and own it. Kirsten was really the perfect fit, and Brad is the one who made that happen for us.”

It’s important to Morgan to be able to reach out to clients, even before they have a need, he said. That’s one of his strategies for matching the right student or graduate with the right employer and helping all involved meet their short- and long-term goals.

The service saves employers the time and money they might spend working with recruitment firms to find top candidates, Morgan said.

“We are here to help employers as much as we help our students,” Morgan said. “We work to understand the specific needs of each employer so that we can provide the services that they need. We strive in all that we do to be a trusted partner with our stakeholders.”

Pruitt is grateful for the resource and encourages others to take advantage of the help the Career Center provides.

“It is pretty unique to be able to say I’m looking for this person to fill this need and have the Career Center bring you back a vetted candidate who is perfect for that position,” Pruitt said. With UT’s College of Law Career Center, “you can trust that to happen.”

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**AT A GLANCE**

The Career Center provides services in the following key areas:

1. Mentoring students through law school to help them succeed.
2. Career development services for current students and all alumni—whether they are recent graduates or have been practicing law for decades.
3. Personalized assistance for employers seeking qualified legal professionals of all backgrounds and experience levels.
Join us for events celebrating our 70th Anniversary

Charles H. Miller Lecture
Real People: The Story of Ed Johnson
Featuring Mark Curriden
September 13, 2017, 4:00 pm - 6:00 p.m.
Room 132, College of Law
2 hours dual CLE (free)

Rose 70th Anniversary Legal Clinic Lecture
Real Law
Featuring Vanita Gupta
October 30, 2017, 12:00 p.m - 1:00 p.m.
Room 132, College of Law

Our Party with a Purpose: Anniversary Celebration
November 17, 2017, 7:00 p.m - 10:00 p.m.
Emporium, Knoxville, Tennessee

Registration info and details at law.utk.edu/celebrate70
Scholarship informs teaching
informs scholarship
BY MIKE BLACKERBY

Michael J. Higdon’s scholarship and teaching don’t just mingle, they’re inexorably intertwined.

Higdon, a professor of law and director of legal writing at UT, says it’s a marriage that benefits both teacher and student.

“My teaching and scholarship are intimately related, with each informing the other,” says Higdon, who was recently honored with the Harold Warner Outstanding Teacher Award and the Carden Outstanding Faculty Award for Scholarship.

“I teach family law, constitutional law and children and the law – areas that I likewise write about. My scholarship very much benefits my teaching. My scholarship requires me to get intimately related to a particular topic and likewise puts me in a position to better explore the nuances of the topic with my students.”

Higdon says the hot-button topics he often deals with in the classroom provoke thoughtful and fresh dialogue.

“I love teaching for many reasons but, in part, for how it can benefit me as a scholar. We are so lucky at UT to have such dedicated, intelligent students, and my scholarship is often inspired by our classroom discussions,” he said.

“I think every teacher who has been teaching for a while worries about their teaching becoming stale. Well, that’s much less of a concern for me given the new contexts that are constantly appearing in the news implicating my subject areas. In short, it keeps me on my toes and forces me to continually expand my knowledge of the underlying subjects.”

Past and present students—beneficiaries of Paula Schaefer’s focus
BY MIKE BLACKERBY

Service hardly translates into sacrifice for UT Law Professor Paula Schaefer.

“The service part of the job is about giving something back to the school and its alumni,” she said.

Schaefer spent her summer teaching Behavioral Legal Ethics in UT’s Cambridge program, and has been heavily involved in service at the law school.

Schaefer chaired the committee that developed the new experiential component of the first-year curriculum, served on multiple search committees and has been active in continuing legal education (CLE) and alumni outreach.

“I like presenting continuing legal education programs because it helps me stay in touch with lawyers in the state and the issues they encounter in practice,” she said.

“The stories I hear from alumni during and after CLEs influence my teaching and scholarship. I get as much from doing CLEs as the attendees. I think the alumni would agree, though, that the most important service is something that furthers the educational goals of our current students.”

Schaefer has reached out to alumni for input when she chaired the committee that studied and proposed changes to the 1L curriculum.

“The changes we made responded to those suggestions,” she said.

“We have focused on providing more context, more opportunities to learn by doing, and more opportunities to learn about the variety of ways lawyers can use their law degrees. The student response to the first-year curriculum changes has been positive.”
University of Tennessee Law Professor Maurice Stucke presents a strong case. If not for his connections at UT Law, Stucke says his burgeoning second career as a high-profile author would never have materialized.

“This wouldn’t have been possible without the generosity and support of UT,” says Stucke. “Like Doug (Blaze, former UT Law Dean) before and Melanie (Wilson, current UT Law Dean) now, they would both say, ‘what can we do to support and help you?’ ”

Stucke’s two books, Virtual Competition: The Promise and Perils of the Algorithm-Driven Economy (Harvard University Press 2016) (with Ariel Ezrachi) and Big Data and Competition Policy (Oxford University Press 2016) (with Allen P. Grunes), have received rave reviews and news coverage around the world.

Burton G. Malkiel of The Wall Street Journal says in his review: “Virtual Competition displays a deep understanding of the internet world and is outstandingly researched. The polymath authors illustrate their arguments with relevant case law as well as reference to studies in economics and behavioral psychology.”

Frank Pasquale, author of The Black Box Society, writes, “This (Big Data and Competition Policy) is a groundbreaking critical work – a major contribution to the field of competition law.”

Stucke, who is working on two new books, shared his work this summer during his fellowship at Oxford.

The climate and resources at UT – from research grants to assistance from the law library to brown-bag seminars – make the union of scholarship and teaching possible, says Stucke. “They’re encouraging in so many ways.”

Creating insightful leaders out of well-trained student lawyers is UT Law Professor Doug Blaze’s goal.

Blaze, the director of the Institute for Professional Leadership, has worked with others in the college to quite literally carve out a unique niche for leadership. The leadership curriculum has continued to develop and expand over the past six years, but much of the Institute planning, coordination and instruction has taken place either in Blaze’s office or shared classrooms and conference rooms.

When students return to campus in the fall, they’ll find the Institute for Professional Leadership in a well-defined space on the third floor of the College of Law.

“We owe a great deal of thanks to College of Law Finance Director Teresa Peterson and Dean Melanie Wilson for having the vision to provide the space for this,” Blaze said. “Providing a permanent facility and location to an entity like ours helps us broaden our influence. This has been a great next step for the Institute.”

Blaze says he and attorney George “Buck” Lewis, who helped conceive the center and its mission, aim to graduate students who are not just qualified law practitioners but also thought leaders in their communities.

“Law schools have always been good at teaching people to think like a lawyer, and possess the skills and ethics for how to be a lawyer,” Blaze said. “Law schools are just starting to develop necessary programs to teach students to be leaders and to be able to impact people now and later in their careers.”

“We want our graduates to help improve the profession, their communities and our country,” he said.
Professor Bradley Areheart’s article The Symmetry Principle will be published in volume 58 of the BOSTON COLLEGE LAW REVIEW.

Professor Wendy Bach was selected as a Bellows Scholar for her criminalization of in-utero opiate transmission project. The Bellows Scholar program recognizes and supports the research projects of clinical law teachers that reflect the ideals of Professor Gary Bellow — a pioneering founder of modern clinical legal education.

Associate Dean and Professor Teri Dobbins Baxter’s article Marriage on Our Terms was published at 41 N.Y.U. REV. L. & SOC. CHANGE 1 (2017). Her article Employer-Mandated Vaccination Policies: Different Employers, New Vaccines, and Hidden Risks will be published in the Fall 2017 issue of the UTAH LAW REVIEW.

Professor Robert Blitt’s article, Experiencing Experiential Education: A Faculty-Student Perspective on the University of Tennessee College of Law’s Adventure in Access to Justice Author, coauthored with 3L student Reece Brassler, was appended in 50 J. MARSHALL L. REV. 11 (2017)

Professor Blitt’s article, Equality and Nondiscrimination Through the Eyes of an International Religious Organization: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation’s (OIC) Response to Women’s Rights, will be published in volume 34 of the WISCONSIN INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL.

DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS: CRIMINAL LAW by Professors Douglas A. Blaze and Joy Radice is now available from West Academic Publishing.

Professor Zack Buck recently published Overtreatment and Informed Consent: A Fraud-Based Solution to Unwanted and Unnecessary Care, 43 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 901 (2016) and The Cost of High Prices: Embedding the Ethic of Cost in the Standard of Care, 58 B.C. L. REV. 101 (2017). His article A Farewell to Falsity: Shifting Standards in Medicare Fraud Enforcement has been accepted for publication in volume 48 of the SETON HALL LAW REVIEW. Professor Buck won the Marilyn Y. Yarbrough Faculty Award for Writing Excellence and was named the 2017 Wilkinson Junior Research Professor for his article Furthering the Fiduciary Metaphor: The Duty of Providers to the Payers of Medicare, 104 CAL. L. REV. 1043 (2016).

Professors Scott Childs and Sybil Marshall published the second edition of TENNESSEE LEGAL RESEARCH (Carolina Academic Press, 2016) with former UT College of Law Professor Carol Parker.


Professor Joan Heminway recently published several articles, including Corporate Purpose and Litigation Risk in Publicly Held U.S. Benefit Corporations, 40 SEATTLE U. L. REV. 611 (2017); (Not) Holding Firms Criminally Responsible for the Reckless Insider Trading of their Employees, 46 STETSON L. REV. 127 (2016); and The Role of Business Counsel as Compliance Gatekeepers: Toward Understanding and Combating Reckless Disregard for Legal and Ethical Compliance in Business Entities, 62 WAYNE L. REV. 7 (2016).

Professor Michael Higdon’s article Polygamous Marriage, Monogamous Divorce will be published in volume 67 of the DUKE LAW JOURNAL. Professor Higdon also has an article featured in REVISITING LANDDELL: LEGAL EDUCATION REFORM AND THE LAWYER’S CRAFT, a book published by the WAKE FOREST LAW REVIEW.

Professor Lucy Jewel’s article Old-School Rhetoric and New-School Cognitive Science: The Enduring Power of Logocentric Categories was named Article of the Week on TaxProf Blog’s legal education roundup. The same article was highlighted on the Legal Skills Prof Blog, and TaxProf Blog named the article one of the best legal education papers of 2016. Professor Jewel authored an article on Bloomberg BNA entitled “Law Schools Can Prepare Future Lawyers for a Gender Inclusive Culture (Perspective).”

Professor Brian Krumm’s article Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Shark Tank Couldn’t Be the Model will be published in the ARKANSAS LAW REVIEW.

Professor Brian Krumm and Professor George Kuney have published a new book, A TRANSACTIONAL MALPRACTICE (with Donna C. Looper). West Academic Publishing recently published LEGAL DRAFTING: PROCESS, TECHNIQUES, AND EXERCISES by Professor George W. Kuney (with Donna C. Looper), and the 4th Edition of Professors George Kuney and Bob Lloyd’s casebook, CONTRACTS: TRANSACTIONS AND LITIGATION.

Professor Kuney’s article should the Trustee in Bankruptcy Succeed to the “Equal Guilt” of the Debtor? Putting the Burden of Imputation on Wrongdoing Third Parties For In Pari Delito Purposes is being published as the lead article in the 2017 NORTON ANNUAL REVIEW OF BANKRUPTCY LAW.

Professor Michelle Kwon’s article Easing Regulatory Bottlenecks with Collaborative Rulemaking will be published in volume 69 of the ADMINISTRATIVE LAW REVIEW.

Associate Dean and Professor Alex Long’s article The Lawyer as Public Figure for First Amendment Purposes has been published at B.C. L. REV. 1543 (2016). His article Retaliation and the Unreasonable Judge: A Response to Professor Sperino, was published at 67 FLA. L. REV. FORUM 202 (2016).


Professor James Stock’s book When Land Use Rights Begin to Expire? 50 VAND. J. TRANSNAT’L L. 625 (2017) and Chinese Real Estate Law and the Law and Development


Professor Joy Radice’s article The Juvenile Record Myth will be published in Volume 106 of THE GEORGETOWN LAW JOURNAL.

Professor Glenn Reynolds’ article, Second Amendment Limitations has been published at 14 GEO. J. L. & PUB. POL’Y 233 (2016). His article, Of Coups and the Constitution, was published in 48 COLUM. HUM. RTS. L. REV. 111 (2017). Professor Reynolds has also been named a 2016 Hoover Media Fellow at Stanford University.

Professor Briania Rosenberg’s article The RICO Trend in Class Action Warfare was published at 102 IOWA L. REV. 165 (2016).


Professor Gregory Stein published two articles: What Will China Do When Land Use Rights Begin to Expire? 50 VAND. J. TRANSNAT’L L. 625 (2017) and
Prosecuting Poverty

At the Critical Race and Ethnic of a panel titled “Responding to also the organizer and moderator Works-in-Progress Panel. He was Principle for their tax exemption. removing the provision they rely on groups to start paying taxes by IRS rules to require white nationalist orchestras, planetariums and zoos,” In “Why the IRS puts white-nation Law Review Symposium. annual University of Detroit Mercy Assessment” with Alicia Jackson Renee Allen Mark Tushnet and Paul Craig). –

Professor Valorie Vojdik’s article Conceptualizing Intimate Violence and Gender Equally: A Comparative Approach (published in the FORDHAM INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL) will be included in a 3-volume set, GENDER AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, edited by Professor Catharine MacKinnon for the 3-volume set, GENDER AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, edited by Professor Catharine MacKinnon for the Constitutional Law Series (editors, Mark Tushnet and Paul Craig).

Presentations and Media Appearances

Academic Success Program Director Renee Allen presented “Contemporary Teaching Strategies: Engaging Millennials Through Formative Assessment” with Alicia Jackson (Florida A&M College of Law) at the annual University of Detroit Mercy Law Review Symposium.

In “Why the IRS puts white-nationalist groups in the same category as orchestras, planetariums and zoos,” The Washington Post’s Wonkblog discussed Professor Eric Franklin Amarante’s proposal to change the IRS rules to require white nationalist groups to start paying taxes by removing the provision they rely on for their tax exemption.

Professor Brad Areheart presented a draft of his article The Symmetry Principle at the University of South Carolina School of Law Speaker Series and at the Federalist Society Works-in-Progress Panel. He was also the organizer and moderator of a panel titled “Responding to Fisher v. Texas” at the AALS Annual Conference.

At the Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Conference, Professor Wendy Bach was part of a panel discussing Resistance to Criminal Injustice and the Law. Her topic was Prosecuting Poverty.

Professor Benjamin Barton presented his book Glass Half Full at Stanford Law School’s Center on the Legal Profession as a visiting scholar. He also presented a draft of his next book project, Diversity on the Court: A Study of Supreme Court Justices Backgrounds and Why They Matter, to members of the Stanford Law Faculty. Professor Barton was one of the keynote speakers at the annual National Association of Legal Professionals Conference.

Associate Dean and Professor Teri Baxter served as a panelist for the Free Speech and Diversity Forum sponsored by the UT Faculty Senate Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion and the UK American Association of University Professionals. Professor Baxter was also quoted in the Knoxville News Sentinel article “Knoxville lawyers, law profes- sor react to SCOTUS pick” about President Trump’s nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to fill the United States Supreme Court. She was also interviewed by WATE News about Judge Gorsuch’s nomination.

Professor Zack Buck presented The Chronic Challenge of Cost Control, as part of the JOURNAL OF LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY Symposium at the University of St. Thomas School of Law and he was on a panel titled Taking the Vitals of the Medicaid Managed Care Marketplace at the Saint Louis University Health Law Symposium. As the featured guest on “This Week on Health Law,” an iTunes podcast, Professor Buck discussed his research suggesting a fiduciary approach to dealing with the problem of over-treatment and the best way to deal with the “financial toxicity” that results from related phenomena. In the article “2017’s Cities Most Affected by Reverse Exactions” in Title IX compliance.

Professor Carol Collins presented at the annual Southeastern American Association of Law Libraries (SEALL) conference. Professor Collins’s talk was titled Real World Steps to Discovery and provided criteria for selecting and implementing a library discovery system. Professor Judy Cornett presented her paper, Hildibelly Atticus, at a symposium sponsored by the ALABAMA LAW REVIEW titled “The Legacy of To Kill a Mockingbird: Advocacy in an Unjust Society.”

Professor Joan Heminway presented her paper “Shareholder Wealth Maximization as a Function of Statutes, Decisional Law, and Organic Documents” at WASHING-TON AND LEE LAW REVIEW’S Lara D. Gass Symposium. She presented her book chapter: Financing Social Entourage: Is the Crowd the Answer? at a symposium at The University of Notre Dame Law School and as a featured presenter for the Murphy Corporate Law Colloquium at the Fordham University School of Law. Professor Heminway participated in both a policy session and a panel on legal issues in social entrepreneur- ship at the fifth annual “Midwest Symposium on Social Enterpreneur- ship,” and she participated in a panel discussion at a conference entitled “Legal Issues in Social Entrepreneurship and Impact Investing—In the U.S. and Beyond” co-sponsored by the Impact Investing Legal Working Group and the Grunin Center for Law and Social Entrepreneurship at N.Y.U. Law School. Professor Heminway also spoke at the theme of UT’s Sex Week as part of a program on the intellectual history of The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Professor Michael Higdon participat- ed in a panel discussion as part of UT’s fifth annual Sex Week program. The panel focused on Title IX—its legislative and enforcement history, compliance questions, the current focus on disparate treatment in connection with sexual misconduct, and the role of faculty and students in Title IX compliance.

Professor Becky Jacobs participated on a panel at the Society of American Law Teachers conference. The panel — “Teaching About Social Justice by Not Talking About It” – discussed faculty approaches to encourage students to examine critically the effect of different policies, doctrines and legal responses on society. Professor Jacobs also organized, moderated, and participated in two panels on the topic of “An Ethical, Sustainable Energy Industry”: one as part of the Energy and Environment Forum at UT’s Baker Center and one at the Appalachian Public Interest Environ- mental Law conference at UT College of Law. She participated in the “Title IX: History, Legacy, and


Professor Arthur Stucker was quoted in articles about the Knoxville News Sentinel article Judge Neil Gorsuch to fill the United States Supreme Court.
Controversy” conference at UT College of Law, and organized a panel of experts for the 25th Annual Conference of the Tennessee Section of the American Water Resources Association. Professor Jacobs also co-organized a panel on extra- and non-traditional clinical and interdisciplinary learning opportunities for the AALS 40th Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education.

Professor Lucy Jewel presented her work-in-progress paper, Healing Alternatives: Neuro-Rhetoric Explains the Need for a Comparative Approach to Rhetoric in Law, at the Southeastern Legal Writing Conference – Legal Writing in 3D: Discourse, Discipline, and Doctrine, at Stetson University College of Law. At the New Directions Critical Race Theory Conference, Professor Jewel and Professor Mary Campbell (Art History) discussed their work on visuality, the law, and race. She also spoke on a panel at the AALS Clinical Legal Education Conference, entitled: “Client as Subject: Individuals, Organizations, Communities, and Social Movements in Legal Education.”

Professor Brian Krumm addressed the Centre for Common Law at Renmin University of China in Beijing on the “Changing Landscape of Innovation Finance.” In addition, Professor Krumm and Professor Karl Okamoto, of Drexel University jointly conducted a seminar for the Renmin Faculty Development Centre on “The Value of Transactional Law Clinics and Simulation Exercises in Teaching Transactional Law Skills.” Professor Krumm presented his forthcoming article, Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Shark Tank Shouldn’t Be the Model at a faculty workshop at Georgia State Law School and at the Syracuse University Transformative Dialogues Faculty Workshop. Professor Krumm also gave a webcast presentation with Professor Shubha Ghosh (Director of the Technology Commercialization Law Program at Syracuse Law) entitled How Entrepreneurial Law and IP Clinics Can Assist in the Commercialization of University Intellectual Property at the New York State Science and Technology Law Center.

Professor Rivkin spoke at the University of St. Thomas School of Law’s symposium on professional formation in legal education. Her talk was titled: Building on the Professionalism Foundation of Best Practices for Legal Education. Professor Rivkin recently presented Teaching Professionalism Across the Curriculum to the faculty of Villanova University School of Law as the guest of Villanova’s David F. and Constance B. Girard-diCarlo Center for Ethics, Integrity and Compliance.

Professor Rivkin also gave a webcast presentation, How Electronic Health Records Shouldn’t Be the Model at a faculty workshop at George Washington University Law School. Also at the workshop, Professor Rivkin served as the presenters at the 10th Annual Bellow Scholars Workshop at Harvard Law School; he spoke on the history of the project and moderated discussions of papers by Bellow Scholars.

Professor Rivkin was quoted in the Knoxville News Sentinel article “U.S. Supreme Court Nominates 1st Jewish Nominee.” She also participated in a panel focused on the rights of transgender persons to restroom access as part of UT’s Sex Week program.

Professor Penny White served as faculty at Harvard Law School for its winter session Trial Advocacy Workshop. Professor White and Professor Erwin Chemerinsky served as the presenters at the Judge William A. Ingram Annual Symposium sponsored by the Heafey Center for Trial and Appellate Advocacy and Santa Clara University School of Law.

Professor David Wolitz was quoted in the Knoxville News Sentinel article “Knoxville lawyers, law professor react to SCOTUS pick” about President Trump’s nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to fill the United States Supreme Court seat left vacant after Justice Antonin Scalia’s death a year ago.

FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Loretta Price

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Thank you to all UT Law alumni and friends who made philanthropic gifts to the college in 2016. Donor support is critical to the success of our law school. It allows us to strive for excellence in everything we do and to provide the best legal education possible for our students. Again, thank you for your support!

Please be assured that every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this report. For couples with only one UT Law alumnus, the alumnus is listed first. Let us know if you find errors by contacting Steve Evans, senior director of development and alumni affairs, at 865-974-6691 or sevans6@utk.edu.

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Please be assured that every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this report. For couples with only one UT Law alumnus, the alumnus is listed first. Let us know if you find errors by contacting Steve Evans, senior director of development and alumni affairs, at 865-974-6691 or sevans6@utk.edu.
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From the college's original building, Tennessee Hall, to our current location on Cumberland Avenue, UT Law has always stood proudly, serving as a beacon of legal education. These donors who have committed $1 million or more to the college represent our continued commitment to excellence in legal education.

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Ripple Effect

noun. A spreading and pervasive effect or influence, usually greater than immediately observed.

At UT Law, we live by the Ripple Effect because we know that even small splashes spread out and make big lasting impacts—both now and decades into the future. Whether that ripple sends our students to argue before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, supports our clinics in helping individuals with limited options for legal counsel, or covers the costs of Alternative Spring Break projects that allow our students to improve lives across the country, what we give today funds opportunities that pay dividends for years to come. And, it all begins with individuals like you who are willing to make their own ripples.

Ripplemakers wanted.

law.utk.edu/give
The College of Law mourns the passing of retired University of Tennessee Distinguished Service Professor of Law Neil Philip Cohen.

Cohen taught at the University of Tennessee from 1972 until his retirement in 2006 and was an author and co-author of 10 books. Cohen retired to California with his wife, Riva Nelson, and continued teaching as a visiting professor of law at the University of San Francisco, Brooklyn Law School, Florida State University, Santa Clara Law School, Seattle University and University of the Pacific.

Cohen’s teaching and research interests were in criminal law and procedure, sentencing, evidence and professional responsibility. He drafted the gender-neutral version of the Tennessee Rules of Appellate, Civil, Criminal, and Juvenile Procedure and assisted in drafting the Tennessee Rules of Evidence and the Tennessee Penal Code, as well as the modernized Tennessee Rules of Criminal Procedure.

He served as the reporter of the Tennessee Bar Association’s Jury Reform Commission and was appointed to the American Jury Project by the president of the American Bar Association. His book, “The Law of Probation and Parole” (1999), has been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court.


Cohen’s death on May 8 followed a brief illness at his home in San Rafael, Calif. He was 72.
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NEYLAND STADIUM
by Patrick Murphy-Racy
Reunion Weekend
NOVEMBER 17-18, 2017

- Class dinner
- CLE and luncheon
- Tailgate for LSU vs UT game
- Building tours
- Other reunion activities

Formal invitation coming in September

law.utk.edu/alumni/reunion